

Message Text

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SUBJECT: JUSTICE PARTY CONVENTION CONCLUDES

REF: ANKARA 8119 (DTG 221440Z OCT 76)

1. THREE-DAY JUSTICE PARTY (JP) NATIONAL CONVENTION CLOSED OCTOBER 23 WITH UNOPPOSED RE-ELECTION OF PRIMIN DEMIREL AS PARTY CHAIRMAN AND THE ADDITION OF NINE FORMER MEMBERS OF THE OLD DEMOCRAT PARTY AND DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO THE JP GENERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

2. DEMIREL, RE-ELECTED BY A VOTE OF 1358 TO NINE (393 ABSTENTIONS), AFTERWARD TOLD MILLIYET IN AN
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INTERVIEW PUBLISHED OCTOBER 26 THAT THE CONVENTION HAD BEEN

AN "INTEGRATION CONGRESS" CHARACTERIZED BY THE FIRM INTEGRATION NOT ONLY OF LONG-TIME JP MEMBERS BUT OF "OUR FRIENDS WHO SERVED THE COUNTRY IN THE 1950-60 PERIOD BUT WERE DEPRIVED OF POLITICAL RIGHTS FOR ALMOST 15 YEARS (FORMER DEMOCRAT PARTY MEMBERS) AND OF "OUR FRIENDS WHO HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR NEST" (SOME OF THE 1970 FOUNDERS OF THE JP-BREAKAWAY DEMOCRATIC PARTY).

3. INTEGRATION ASPECT OF CONVENTION SHOWED IN REPORTEDLY MOST POPULAR SLOGAN OF CONVENTION, "SPIRIT OF '46," REFERRING TO FOUNDING DATE OF DEMOCRAT PARTY. INTEGRATION INTO JP OF FORMER MEMBERS OF THE TWO DP'S WAS ESPECIALLY EVIDENT IN ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE PARTY'S GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD, WHICH THE CONVENTION EXPANDED FROM 24 TO 32 MEMBERS. NINE OF THE FOURTEEN NEW FACES ON THE BOARD BELONG TO FORMER MEMBERS OF THE TWO DP'S, MOST NOTABLY INCLUDING DEMOCRATIC PARTY FOUNDERS MUTLU MENDERES (SON OF LATE DEMOCRAT PARTY PRIMIN), NILUFER GURSOY (DAUGHTER OF FORMER PRESIDENT BAYAR), AND FORMER DEMOCRAT PARTY MEMBERS SADETTIN BILGIC, AND IBRAHIM KIRAZOGLU AND SEBATI ATAMAN. THE TOP SIX VOTE-GETTERS IN BALLOTING FOR JP EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS WERE ALL FORMER MEMBERS OF THE DP'S (HEADED BY MUTLU MENDERES), EACH OF THEM GETTING MORE THAN TWICE AS MANY VOTES AS THE LOWEST-POLLING SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE.

4. COMMENT: INTEGRATION OF THE OLD DP MEMBERS INTO THE JP ADMINISTRATION BOARD REPRESENTS A GREAT PERSONAL VICTORY FOR DEMIREL. PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY IS THE CASE OF BILGIC AND OTHER FORMER DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEMBERS, WHO HAD BROKEN AWAY FROM THE JP DUE TO BITTER DISAGREEMENT WITH DEMIREL'S LEADERSHIP. TO THE EXTENT THAT THE JP CAN GET ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM THOSE PARTIES' CONSTITUENCIES, IT SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTIONS.
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